

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 310
ANSWERED ON 20.03.2026

PROGRESS OF ESTABLISHMENT OF PGIHRE IN PUNJAB

*310. SHRI SATNAM SINGH SANDHU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of land acquisition for Post Graduate Institute of Horticulture Research and Education (PGIHRE) in Punjab;
- (b) whether the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) and site selection process have been completed and approved; and
- (c) the timeline by which the project would be completed?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 310 FOR REPLY ON 20.03.2026 REGARDING “PROGRESS OF ESTABLISHMENT OF PGIHRE IN PUNJAB”.

(a): As follow up of the Budget Speech of Late Shri Arun Jaitly ji, the then Finance Minister, in the Parliament during 2015-16 (Point no. 80), Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) / Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has requested the Government of Punjab to provide a suitable land in Amritsar for the establishment of the Post Graduate Institute of Horticulture Research and Education (PGIHRE). Thereafter, officials of ICAR had held discussions with the Government of Punjab and did field surveys to identify a suitable site in Amritsar. However, the Government of Punjab has not taken any meaningful initiative during the last ten years (2015-25) to provide land suitable for the establishment of the Post Graduate Institute of Horticulture Research and Education (PGIHRE) in Amritsar. In this regard, a discussion was also held at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi between Special Secretary (Agriculture), Government of Punjab and Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Government of India, on 7 July, 2024. During the discussion, it was advised that the Government of Punjab should take appropriate action on this matter at its own. Subsequently, there has been no response to our latest letter written to the Deputy Director Horticulture, Govt. of Punjab Dated 29 October 2025 on this subject (**Annexure**). Also, there is no financial provision for this project in the current EFC (2026-31) of ICAR.

(b): Social Impact Assessment (SIA) was not taken up because of no physical progress regarding the establishment of PGIHRE.

(c): Not applicable as per the reply furnished in (a) and (b) above.

[PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED Q. NO. 310 DATED 20.03.2026]



भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद
Indian Council of Agricultural Research
 बागवानी विज्ञान प्रभाग
Horticultural Science Division

कृषि अनुसंधान भवन-2, पूसा, नई दिल्ली-110012

Krishi Anusandhan Bhavan-II, Pusa, New Delhi-110012

File No.: FVS&MP.17(8)/2024-HS-II

Date: 29.10.2025

To,

The Deputy Director Horticulture
 Horticulture Department Punjab
 Ranjit Avenue Block-B, Kheti Bhawan,
 Amritsar, Punjab

Sub.: Present Status/Situation of setting up of the Post Graduate Institute of Horticultural Research & Education (PGIHRE) at Amritsar-reg.

Ref.: Your Letter No. 4097, dt. 09 September 2025

Sir,

Please refer to your letter on the subject as detailed above wherein you have also indicated earlier correspondences in the matter as detailed below:


1. D.O. No. 25/14/2015-Agri4(2)/2682, Dt 26 Sep 2023
2. D.O. No. 25/14/2015-Agri4(2)/15893, Dt 09 Nov 2023
3. D.O. No. 25/14/2015-Agri4(2)/1871, Dt 15 Jan 2024
4. D.O. No. 25/14/2015-Agri4(2)/4376, Dt 18 Mar 2024
5. D.O. No. 25/14/2015-Agri4(2)/9739, Dt 15 Jul 2024
6. D.O. No. CMO/CONF1/2024/175, Dt. 22 Nov 2024
7. D.O. No. 25/14/2015-Agri4(2)/5172, Dt 15 Apr 2025

The matter was also clarified to the Additional Chief Secretary, Govt. of Punjab who visited the Office of the Secretary (DARE) & DG (ICAR), New Delhi a few months back. To support the R&D on Horticultural crops such subtropical and arid zone fruits; vegetable crops, flowers and other ornamental plants, onion & garlic and mushrooms; a total of six ICAR-All India Coordinated/Network Research Projects with 19 scientists, 12 technical officers, 2 administrative and 10 supporting positions are being implemented in Punjab. These projects are suitably supporting location-specific R&D on important horticultural crops of Punjab.

It is to emphasize that it was expected on the part of Govt. of Punjab to make the land suitable for the said purpose available to ICAR for construction of main Administrative Building and Laboratory Complex at Amritsar by EFC Period of 2017-20 extended up to 2020-21. However, even after the lapse of this period, positive response from Govt. of Punjab was not received. Accordingly, it is informed that subsequently, financial provisions for this purpose in the EFC for the period 2021 to 26 has not been made by the ICAR.

This issues with the approval of DDG (HS).

Yours faithfully,


 (Anju Palib Kureel)
 Deputy Secretary (HS)